

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The requisite information is still awaited from the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tripura, Pondicherry and Union Territory of Daman and Diu. The matter is being pursued vigorously. On receipt of the information, a statement will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Programmes Under Commissioned Programmes

1023. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1724 dated July 25, 1996 regarding producers in Doordarshan and state :

(a) whether the requisite information in regard to part (c) has since been collected.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the time by which it is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) All out efforts are being made to collect the information at the earliest.

Sick Iron Ore Mines

1024. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sick iron ore mines in the country at present, State-wise.

(b) the reasons for their sickness.

(c) since when these mines have fallen sick.

(d) whether the Government propose to revive these mines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) There is no provision in the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules for furnishing information by the mine owners on sick mines.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

(d) and (e). Government has no specific scheme for revival of mines which have closed or work temporarily discontinued. However, where the closure is due to lack of demand, it is felt that steps taken to liberalise the economy and increase in industrial production would

result in increasing demand for minerals and to make operations of such mines economical.

[English]

Creation of Air Freight Cities

1025. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of the Government for the creation of air freight cities near Palam, Delhi for smooth operation of air cargo service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the proposed air freight cities are likely to come in existence?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This proposal envisaged setting up of a company with India Trade Promotion Organisation, Airports Authority of India, Haryana Warehousing Corporation, and Central Warehousing Corporation as promoters for establishing a comprehensive cargo storage/clearance facility in or around Chauma village in Haryana.

(c) No final decision has been taken on this proposal so far.

Revision in Wages and DA Formula for PSUs

1026. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether non-implementation of wage revision and new DA formula in public sector undertakings create a lot of industrial unrest and hardships to the workers; and

(b) if so, the time by which wage revision and new DA formula is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). Government vide DPE's OM's dated 12.4.93 and 17.1.94 have delegated full autonomy to public sector enterprises for concluding long term wage agreements with their workers in accordance with the prescribed parameters. The new DA formula has been extended to the unionised staff and workers in PSUs vide DPE's OM dated 29.9.95. Revision of wages is therefore done by managements of individual undertakings in accordance with outcome of their negotiations and within the parameters laid down by the above Government guidelines.

Telecom Regulatory Authority

1027. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set-up Telecom Regulatory Authority of India;

(b) if so, the major features of the proposal:

(c) the time by which it is likely to be effected;
and

(d) the details of the telecom sector proposed to be thrown open to the private agencies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The requisite information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India will be set up after the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Bill, 1996 is considered and passed, with amendments, if any, by Parliament.

(d) The manufacture of various types of telecom equipment has been opened to the private sector as also franchise to private Indian registered companies on non-exclusive basis for such value added services as cellular mobile telephone, radio paging, electronic mail, voice-mail/audiotex, videotex, videoconferencing and public mobile radio trunked services.

2. In addition to basic telephone services, the following services are also open to private agencies :

- (i) Captive VSAT networks for closed user group;
- (ii) Private telecommunication networks on circuits leased from DOT;
- (iii) Commercial use of fax on telephone;
- (iv) Group EPABXs;
- (v) Local, STD/ISD PCOs on franchise basis.

STATEMENT

Major Features of the Proposed Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

The main functions of the TRAI include the following :

- (a) to protect the interest of consumers of telecommunication services;
- (b) to settle disputes between service providers;
- (c) to ensure compliance of licence conditions by all service providers;
- (d) to ensure technical compatibility and effective interconnection between different service providers;
- (e) to regulate arrangements amongst service providers in respect of sharing of revenue derived from providing telecommunication services;

(f) to levy fees to such rates and in respect of such services as may be determined by regulations;

(g) to facilitate competition and promote efficiency in the operation of telecommunication services so as to facilitate growth of such services; and

(h) to ensure effective compliance of universal service obligations.

2. The Authority, which would have a Chairman and Members enjoying security of tenure, would be entrusted with, inter-alia, the following powers :

- (a) to seek information on all aspects of service provider's activities;
- (b) to seek information, advice and inputs from any source it deems necessary;
- (c) to investigate, suo-moto, any matter which in its opinion constitutes public interest;
- (d) to inspect facilities, books and records of operators/service providers;

3. The Authority would have an in-built dispute settlement mechanism and would adjudicate on matters such as technical compatibility and effective inter-connection, revenue sharing arrangements, quality of service etc. falling within its jurisdiction.

[Translation]

Tourism Projects Submitted by Rajasthan

1028. PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Rajasthan has sent projects pertaining to tourism development to the Union Government during each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the projects approved/pending with the Union Government alongwith the financial assistance provided for each of the project;

(d) the delay for according approval to the pending projects; and

(e) the number of Heritage Hotels of ITDC and Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC) in the State?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) (a) to (d). The details of projects prioritized in consultation with the State Government and sanctioned by the Department of Tourism during the last three years to the State of Rajasthan are at the Statement enclosed.